

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUGUST 25, 1965

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

After discussion with the Vice President, members of the Space Council, and Secretary of Defense McNamara, I am today instructing the Department of Defense to proceed with the development of a Manned Orbiting Laboratory.

This program will bring us new knowledge about what man is able to do in space.

It will enable us to relate that ability to the defense of our Nation.

It will develop technology and equipment which will help advance manned and unmanned space flight.

And it will make it possible to perform new and rewarding experiments with that technology and equipment.

The cost of developing the Manned Orbiting Laboratory will be \$1.5 billion.

Unmanned flights to test launching, recovery and other basic parts of the system will begin late next year or early in 1967. The initial unmanned launch of a fully-equipped laboratory is scheduled for 1968. This will be followed later that year by the first of five flights with two-man crews.

The Air Force has selected the Douglas Aircraft Company to design and build the spacecraft in which the crew of the Laboratory will live and operate. The General Electric Company will plan and develop the space experiments. The TITAN III-C booster will launch the laboratory into space and a modified version of the NASA GEMINI capsule will be the vehicle in which the astronauts return to earth.

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PRESS CONFERENCE NO. 49

of the
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

10:03 A.M. EDT
Wednesday
August 25, 1965

In The East Room
At The White House

In Attendance:

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

After discussion with Vice President Humphrey and members of the Space Council, as well as the Defense Secretary, McNamara, I am today instructing the Department of Defense to immediately proceed with the development of a manned orbiting laboratory.

This program will bring us new knowledge about what man is able to do in space. It will enable us to relate that ability to the defense of America. It will develop technology and equipment which will help advance manned and unmanned space flight. It will make it possible to perform very new and rewarding experiments with that technology and equipment.

The cost of developing the manned orbiting laboratory will be \$1 billion 500 million. Unmanned flights to test launchings, recovery and other basic parts of the system, will begin late next year or early 1967.

The initial unmanned launch of a fully equipped laboratory is scheduled for 1968. This will be followed later that year by the first of five flights, with 2-man crews. The Air Force has selected the Douglas Aircraft Company to design and to build the spacecraft in which the crew of the laboratory will live and operate. General Electric Company will plan and develop the space experiments. The TITAN III-C booster will launch the laboratory into space, and a modified version of the NASA Gemini capsule will be the vehicle in which the astronauts return to earth.

Even as we meet, Gemini 5, piloted by two very gallant men, backed by hundreds of dedicated space scientists and engineers and great administrators, now orbits the earth as a dramatic reminder that our American dream for outer space is a dream of peace and a dream of friendly cooperation among all of the nations of the earth.

We believe the heavens belong to the people of every country. We are working and we will continue to work through the United Nations -- our distinguished Ambassador, Mr. Goldberg, is present with us this morning -- to extend the rule of law into outer space.

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We intend to live up to our agreement not to orbit weapons of mass destruction and we will continue to hold out to all nations, including the Soviet Union, the hand of cooperation in the exciting years of space exploration which lie ahead for all of us. Therefore, I have today, in fact, directed Mr. James Webb, the Administrator of our civilian space program, after conferring with Secretary of State and our Ambassador to the United Nations and others, to invite the Soviet Academy of Science to send a very high level representative next month here to observe the launching of Gemini 6.

I hope that he will find it convenient to come. We will certainly give him a warm welcome in America.

This morning I have just concluded a breakfast meeting with the Cabinet and each of the Federal agencies and I have asked each of them to introduce a revolutionary system of planning and budgeting and programming throughout the vast Federal Government so that through the tools of modern management the full promise of a finer life can be brought to every American at the lowest possible cost.

Under this new system, each Cabinet and agency head will set up a very special staff of experts who, using the most modern methods of program analysis, will define the goals of their department for the coming year. Once these goals are established, this system will permit us to find the most effective and the least costly alternative to achieving American goals.

This program is designed to achieve three major objectives: It will help us find new ways to do jobs faster, to do jobs better, and to do jobs less expensively. It will insure a much sounder judgment through more accurate information pinpointing those things that we ought to do more, spotlighting those things that we ought to do less. It will make our decision-making process as up-to-date, I think, as our space exploring program.

Everything that I have done in both legislation and the conclusion of a budget has always been guided by my own very deep concern for the American people consistent with wise management, of course, of the taxpayer's dollar.

So this new system will identify our national goals with precision and will do it on a continuing basis. It will enable us to fulfill the needs of all the American people with a minimum amount of waste and because we will be able to make sounder decisions than ever before, I think the people of this Nation will receive greater benefits from every tax dollar that is spent in their behalf.

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